

# MONTANA

Helena, Montana 59604

## PUBLIC

## EMPLOYEES

## ASSOCIATION

STATE ADMINISTRATION

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Date 3-23-07

Bill No. HB-679

March 23, 2007

**To: Senator Carolyn Squires, Chair  
Senate State Administration Committee**

**From: Tom Schneider, MPEA**

**RE: HB 679 (Sales)**

Chairman Squires and Members of the Senate Administration Committee. I will be out of town for your hearing on House Bill 679 (Sales) but I want to go on record opposing this bill as I did in the House Committee.

I am attaching a breakdown of the loss of leave time for new employees hired after July 1, 2007.

The one additional point I wish to bring to your attention is that HB 679 only covers State Employees. The current Vacation and Sick Leave statutes also cover local governments, school districts, special districts and the University System. These statutes were designed to cover all employees except teachers and faculty so that there would not be a constant competition between public employers based on leave benefits. This bill will create competition.

If you remember, last session we passed a new pay system for the Montana Highway Patrol officers which tied them by salary survey to local police and sheriff officers. The 2005 law brought about equality because the MHP was training officers who quickly moved to local law enforcement agencies for much higher pay. HB 679 will undo on the benefit side everything we accomplished on the pay side last session. Please vote NO on HB 679.

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